Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6716
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: MARR, SO, EG

SUBJ: GSDR ASSERTS EGYPTIAN VISIT TO PROMOTE MILITARY COOPERATION

- 1. EGYPTIAN VICE-PREMIER AND MINISTER OF WAR MUHAMMED ABDI AL-GHANI JAMASI ARRIVED IN MOGADISCIO WITH HIS SEVEN-MEMBER ENTOURAGE LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AUGUST 5. THE EGYPTIAN VICE-PREMIER WAS GREETED BY SOMALI VICE-PRESIDENT AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE, LT. GENERAL MOHAMED ALI SAMATAR, DEPUTY DEFENCE MINISTER BRIG. GENERAL OMAR HAJI MOHAMED, OTHER SOMALI MINISTERS AND PARTY BUREAU CHAIRMAN. THE VISITING DIGNITARY VIEWED A MILITARY HONOR GUARD, REPRESENTATIVES OF SOMALI MASS ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS, ALL OF WHOM WHO WERE DRAWN UP IN THE SQUARE ON THE AIRPORT TARMAC IMMEDIATELY IN FRONT OF THE TERMINAL.
- 2. THE SOMALI NEWS AGENCY, SONNA, REPORT OF THE ARRIVAL ASSERTS THAT THE PURPOSE OF JAMASI'S VISIT IS TO PROMOTE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN THE MILITARY FIELD.

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3. COMMENT: THE SOMALI WELCOME DID NOT COMPARE EITHER NUMBER OR IN PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM WITH A SIMILAR GREETING GIVEN CHINESE VICE-PREMIER CHEN MU-HUA SIX DAYS EARLIER. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS THE EGYPTIAN DEFENSE MINISTER WILL HAVE IN SOMALIA MAY BE MORE IMPORTANT TO THE GSDR THAN THOSE

HELD V	WITH THE	CHINESE
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